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7
EXTREMITY
THE FUTURE OF COMICS
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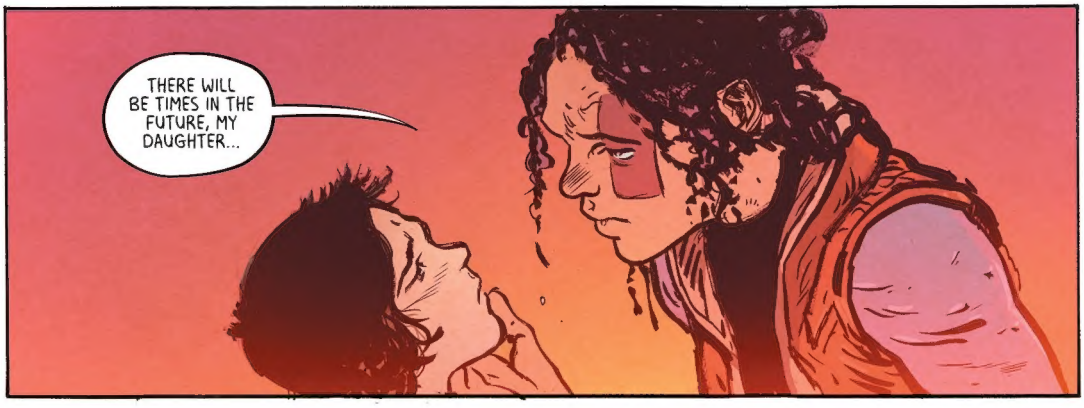
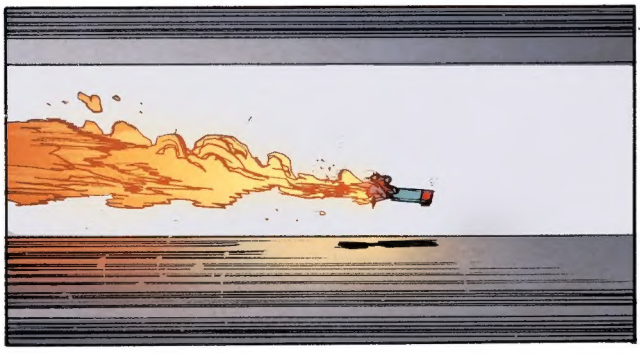
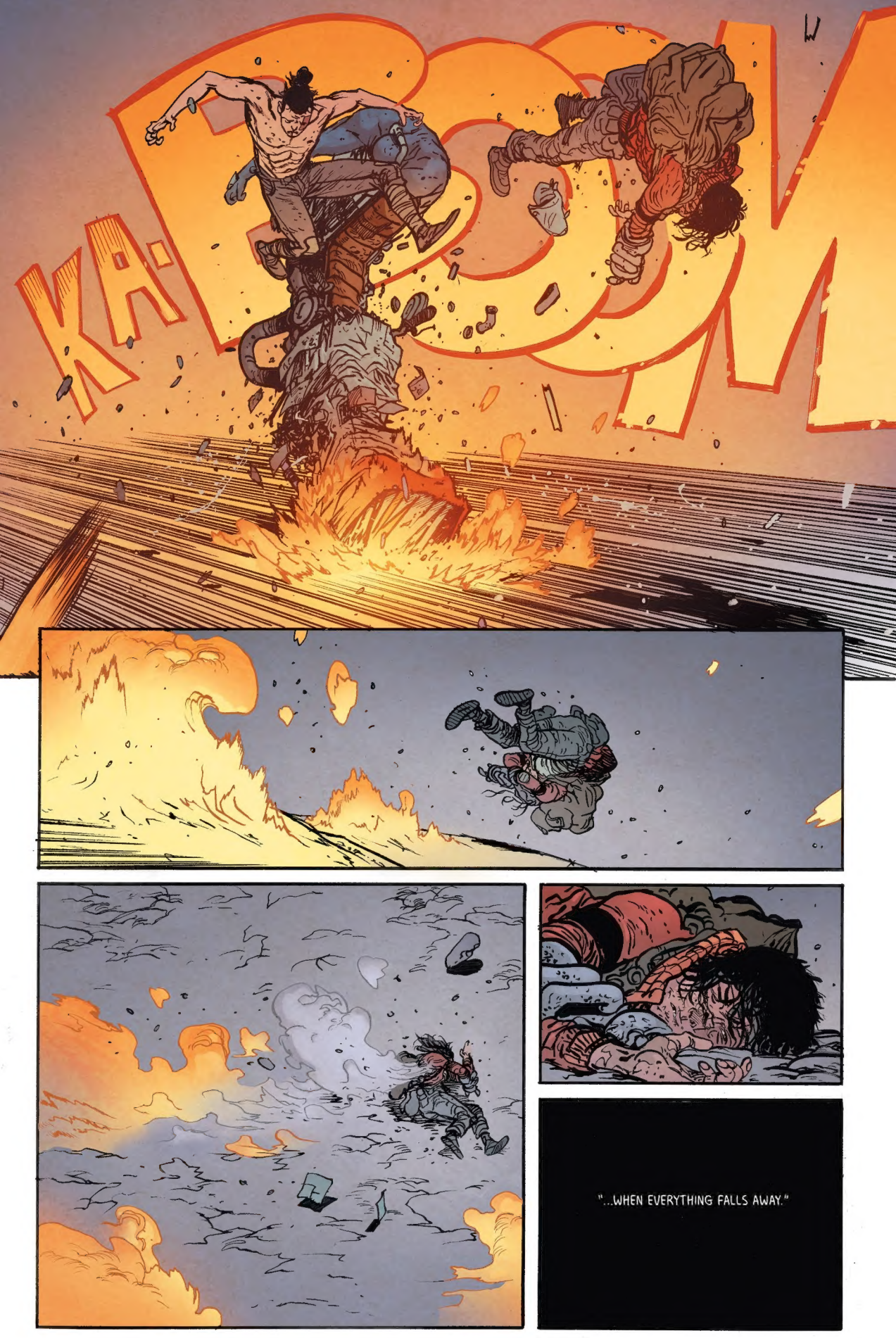

THERE WILL BE TIMES IN THE FUTURE, MY DAUGHTER...

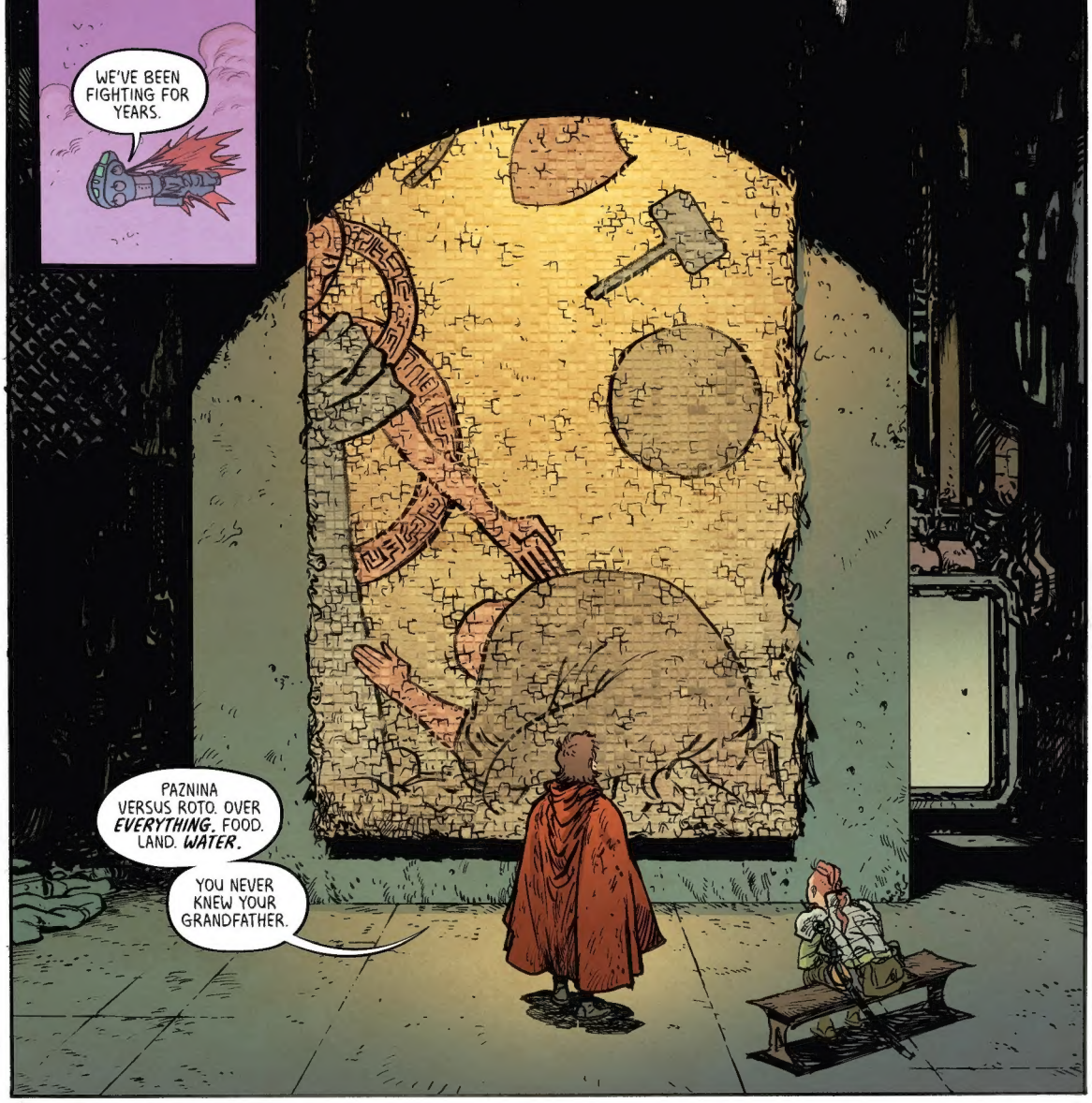
"...WHEN YOU WILL QUESTION EVERYTHING YOU ARE.
THEA, WE'RE GOING TO CRASH! PULL UP!

I--I CAN'T! I CAN BARELY CONTROL HER AS IT IS! WE'RE TOO HEAVY!

"HEARING YOUR NAME SPOKEN OVER YOU WILL HELP...




KA-BOOM
"...WHEN EVERYTHING FALLS AWAY."


WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR YEARS.
PAZNINA VERSUS ROTO. OVER *EVERYTHING.* FOOD. LAND. *WATER.*
YOU NEVER KNEW YOUR GRANDFATHER.

THE MEN TELL ME STORIES. THEY SAY HE WAS A VALIANT WARRIOR.
INDEED. THE FINEST SWORDSMAN I'VE EVER SEEN.
BUT HE WAS GENEROUS AS WELL. FAIR. KIND TO A FAULT.

HE TREATED THE ROTO WITH *RESPECT.* HE GAVE THEM A PORTION OF OUR WATER, HE EVEN LET THEM FARM ON OUR BEST PLAINS. BUT EVEN *THEN,* IT WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH.
HE WAS KILLED THE VERY FIRST DAY OUR TWO CLANS MET IN BATTLE.
AS I WATCHED THE LIFE LEAVE MY FATHER'S EYES, I *KNEW* HOW THE ROTO DESERVED TO BE TREATED. AND WHEN THEY HURT *YOU...*

...WHY DIDN'T YOU KILL THEM?

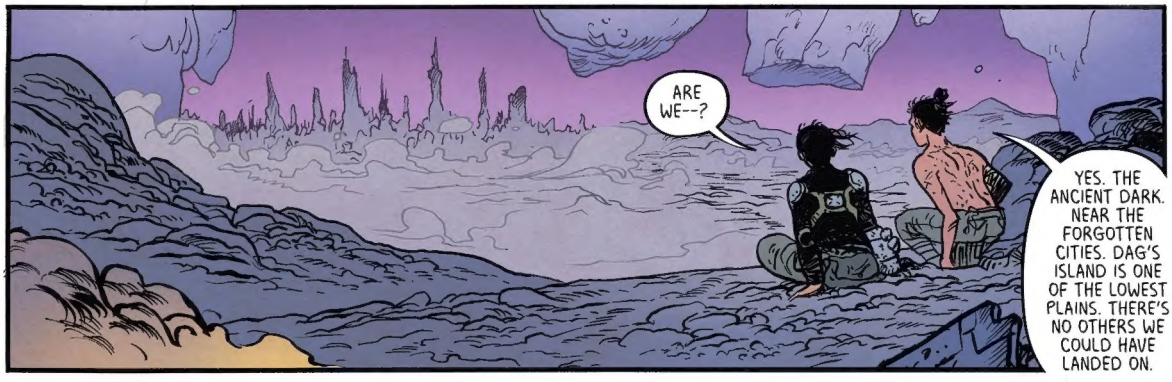
WHAT I DID TO THAT ROTO GIRL, TO *JEROME...* IT WASN'T JUST TO REPAY WHAT THEY DID TO YOUR BEAUTIFUL FACE.

I ENJOYED IT.
IT FELT GOOD TO TAKE AWAY WHAT SHE LOVED MOST. AND I LEFT THEM THERE, IN THEIR MISERY, SO THEY WOULD BE FORCED TO LIVE IN IT.
YOU ARE WISE, MOTHER. YOU HAVE SAVED US.
COME WITH ME.
THAT METAL MAN, THE ONE WITH THE ROTO BOY. HE WAS VERY RARE. I'VE ONLY SEEN BITS AND PIECES OF DIFFERENT MODELS, SCATTERED AROUND THE PLAINS. NEVER HAVE I SEEN ONE COMPLETE.

IT'S BEEN SAID THE SMALL GODS DIDN'T HAVE A *FACE.* MADE OF METAL. STRONGER THAN ANY MACHINE THE PAZNINA HAVE EVER MADE. I NEED YOU TO GET IT BACK.
I'M PROUD OF YOU, MY DAUGHTER. YOU HAVE TRIUMPHED IN THE FACE OF SO MANY ODDS. YOU HAVE BECOME A SKILLED AND DEADLY SOLDIER. YOU HAVE FACED YOUR ENEMY AND SHOWN THAT YOU CAN BE STRONG, AND DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT YOUR CLAN.
IT'S NOW YOUR JOB TO HUNT THE ROTO. *END* THEM, AND BRING ME THEIR SMALL GOD.
YES, MOTHER. I WON'T LET YOU DOWN.
GOOD. I'M GIVING YOU A SQUAD OF SOME OF MY BEST MEN. YOU'LL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
MY QUEEN! THE ROTO SHIP HAS DISAPPEARED INTO THE NORTHERN CLOUDS!
COWARDS!
NO... JEROME DOES NOT RUN.
THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE HE WILL GO NOW.

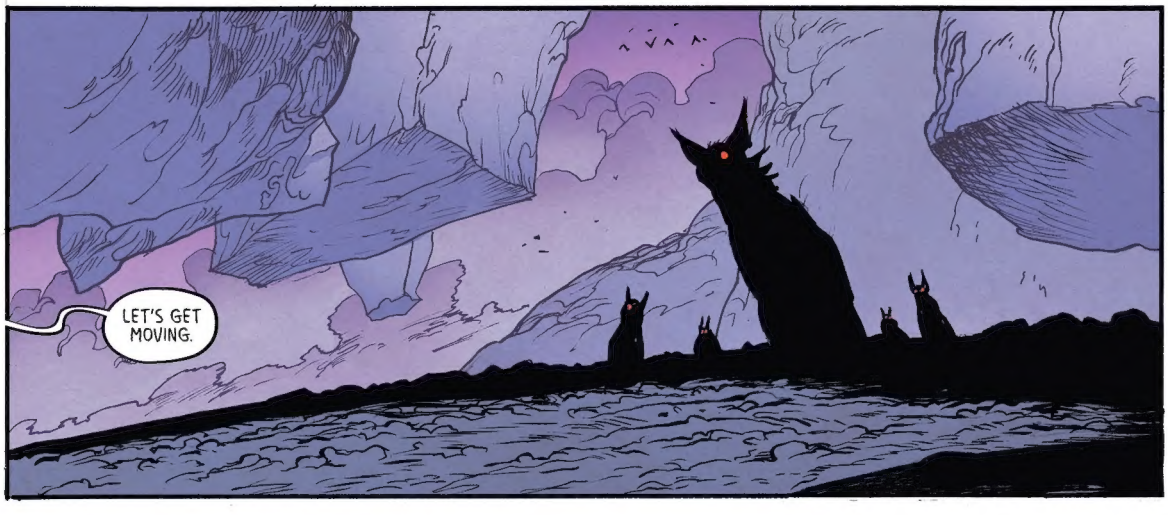
GASP!
THEA!

HOW DO YOU FEEL?
AGH... MY LEG.
YOU'RE LUCKY IT'S NOT BROKEN. I STOPPED THE BLEEDING AS BEST I COULD. I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TO WORK WITH...
NFF... THANK YOU, ROLLO.


ARE WE--?
YES. THE ANCIENT DARK. NEAR THE FORGOTTEN CITIES. DAG'S ISLAND IS ONE OF THE LOWEST PLAINS. THERE'S NO OTHERS WE COULD HAVE LANDED ON.

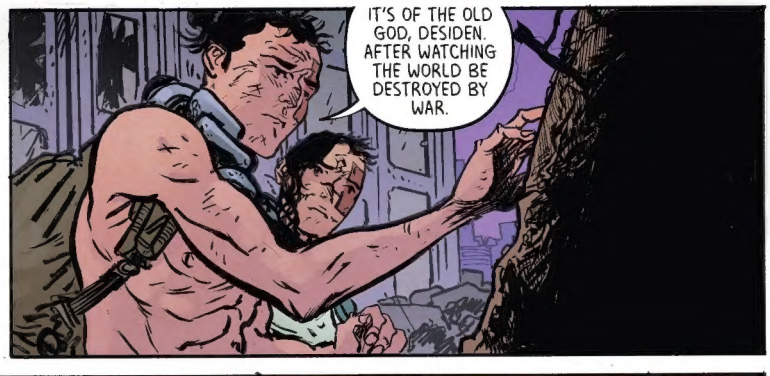
ROLLO... BY NIGHTFALL...
I KNOW. IF WE CAN REACH THE CITY, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND SOME COVER.

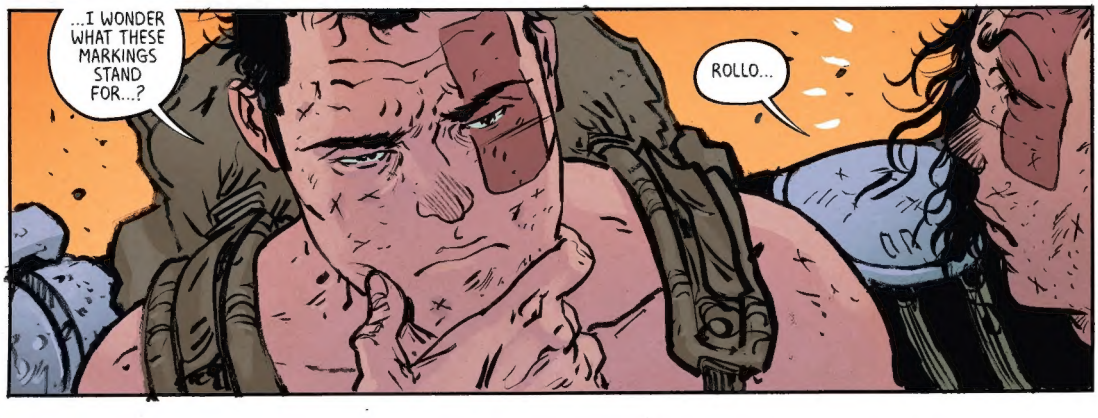
LOOKS LIKE STUDYING ALL THOSE OLD BOOKS IS GOING TO PAY OFF.
COME ON--


LET'S GET MOVING.

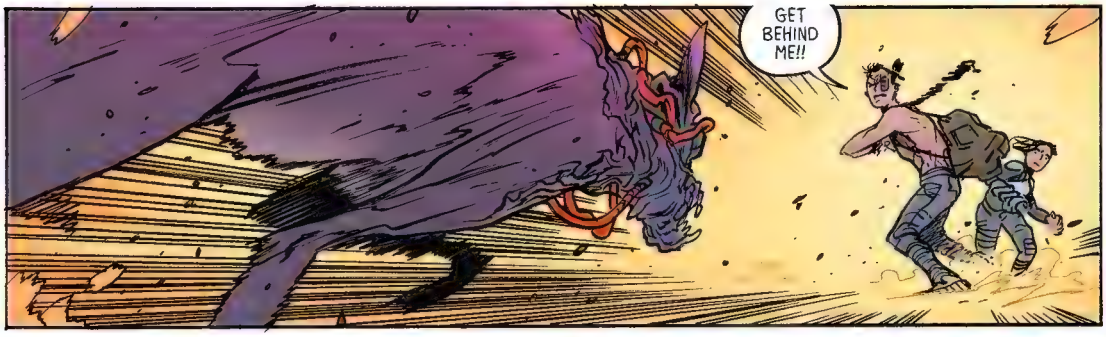
ALL THINGS CONSIDERED...
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
YOU, TOO. THANKS FOR SAVING ME.
DRAG
DRAG
ROLLO...
I'M--I'M SORRY I TURNED MY BACK ON YOU. ON DAG'S ISLAND.
OH, SISTER...
THERE IS NOTHING TO FORGIVE.
YOU'RE SO QUICK TO FORGET MY WRONGS... THE WRONGS OF OTHERS...
...IT... MYSTIFIES ME. THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT YOU.
I JUST TRY TO LET THINGS GO... MAYBE YOU COULD—
NO.
I WILL NEVER FORGET. NEVER FORGIVE. HOW CAN I, WHEN I'M REMINDED OF IT EVERY DAY?
I UNDERSTAND--

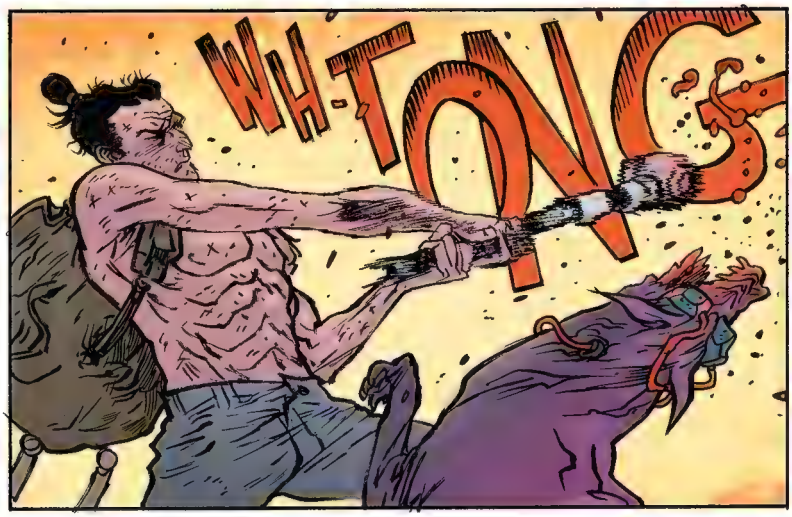
IS IT... SOME SORT OF MURAL?!
I'VE SEEN THIS IMAGE BEFORE... IN MY BOOKS...


IT'S OF THE OLD GOD, DESIDEN. AFTER WATCHING THE WORLD BE DESTROYED BY WAR.


...I WONDER WHAT THESE MARKINGS STAND FOR...?
ROLLO...

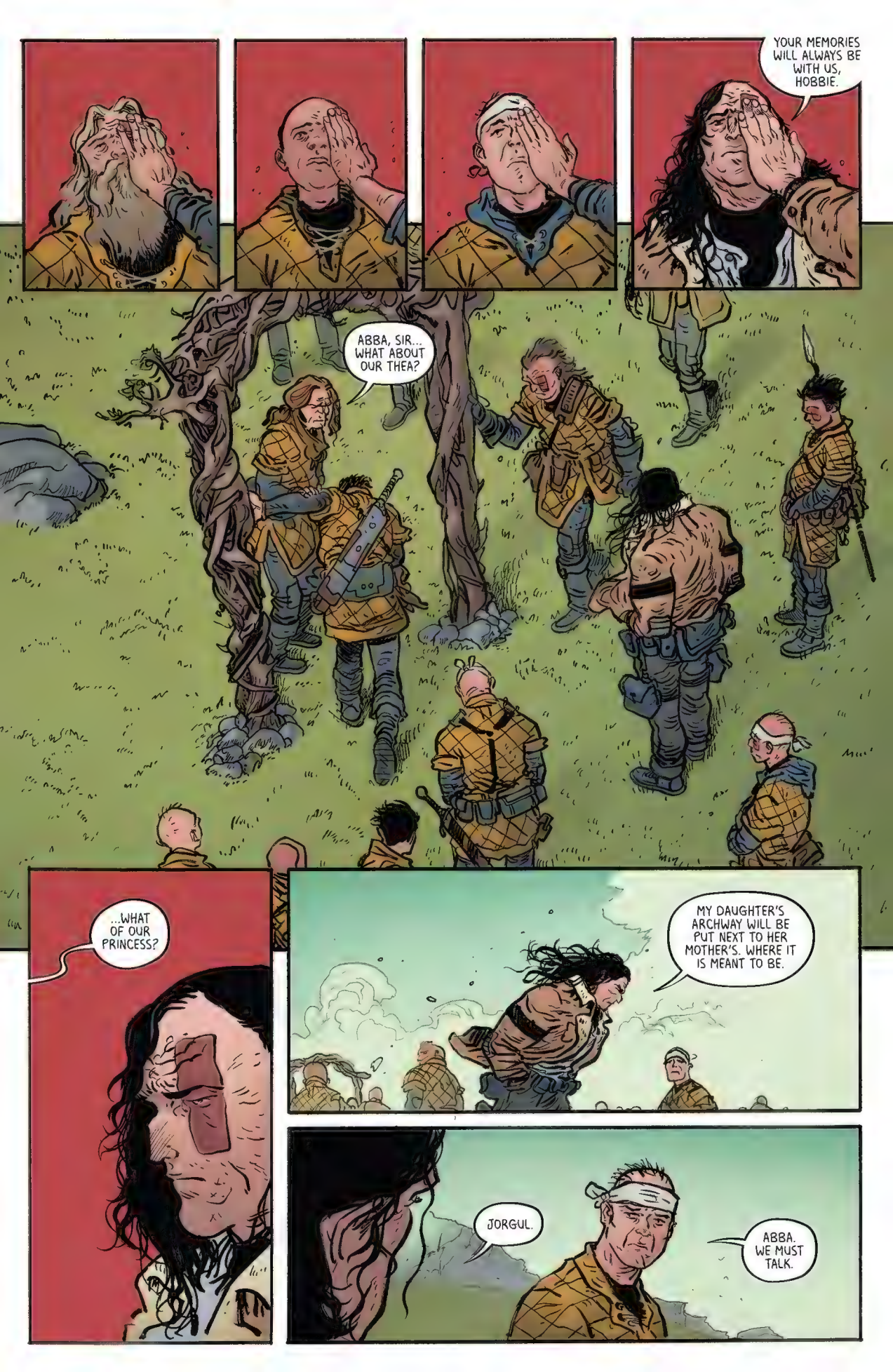
GRAB
WH--WHAT ARE THESE THINGS?!
I DON'T KNOW!


GET BEHIND ME!!

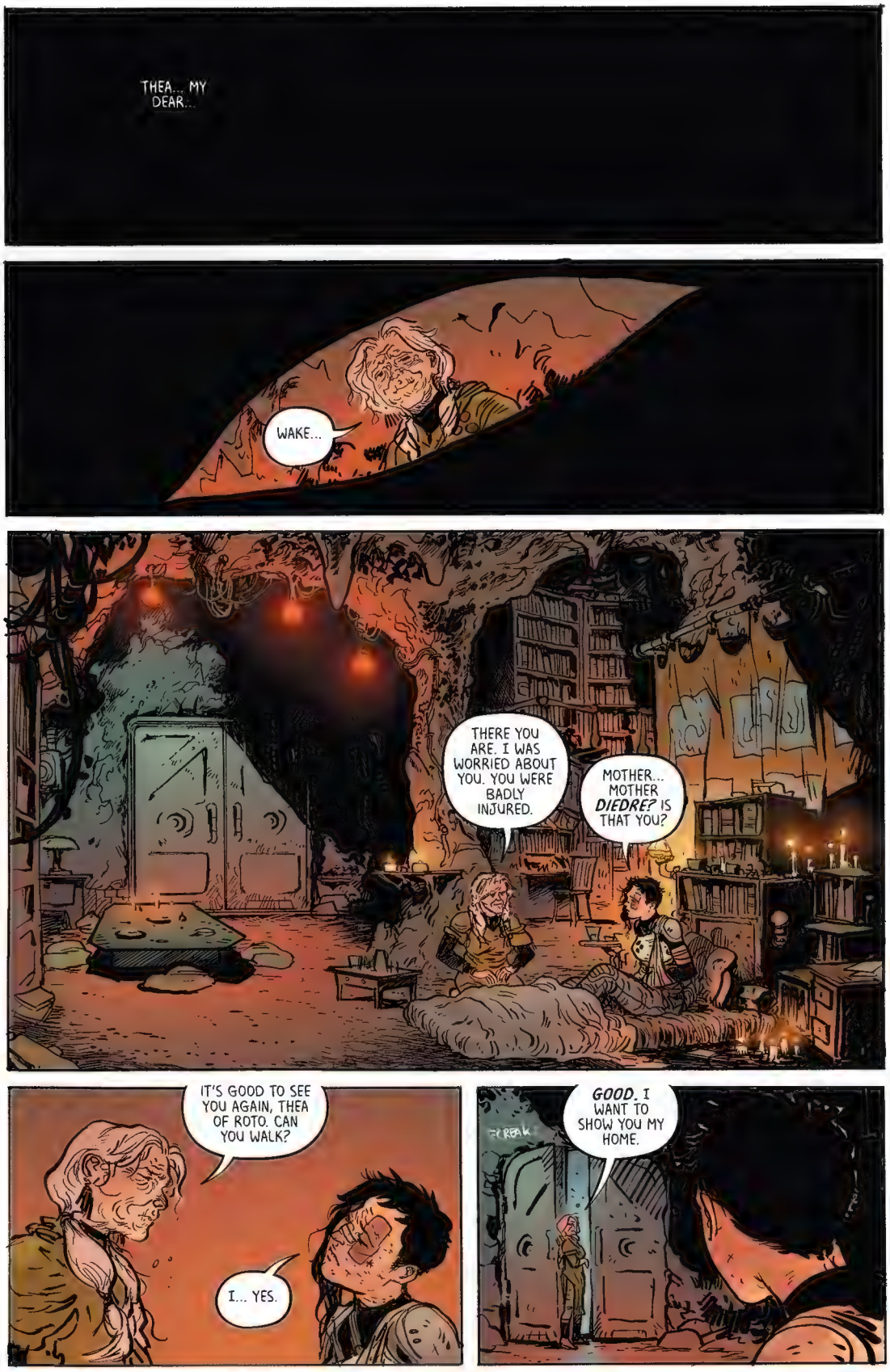

WH-TONG

SWOOSH
!
CRUNCH
AGH!
THEA!
GET OFF!
GRA
SKWRE

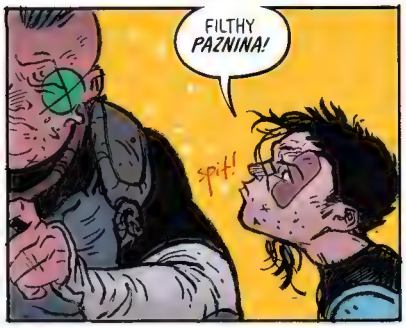
WHO...
...WHO ARE YOU?


YOUR MEMORIES WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US, HOBBIE.
ABBA, SIR... WHAT ABOUT OUR THEA?
...WHAT OF OUR PRINCESS?
MY DAUGHTER'S ARCHWAY WILL BE PUT NEXT TO HER MOTHER'S. WHERE IT IS MEANT TO BE.
JORGUL.
ABBA. WE MUST TALK.

REPORT.
--THE SHIP IS BARELY FLYING. OVER HALF OUR MEN ARE DEAD OR MISSING, AND ALMOST ALL OF THE REMAINDER ARE WOUNDED, SOME CRITICALLY.
HAVE YOU HAD ANY SUCCESS WITH THE BEACON?
IT TOOK A WHILE, BUT I MANAGED TO CREATE AN ADAPTER FOR SHILOH'S BATTERY. AS FAR AS I CAN TELL--
--I THINK ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW IS TURN IT ON.
IN THE MONTHS AFTER THE PAZNINA ATTACKED US... I LOST WHO I WAS.
WHAT GOOD IS A FATHER IF HE CANNOT SHIELD HIS CHILDREN FROM PAIN? THAT WAS MY CALLING, THE GREAT MOTHER TOLD ME SO. PROTECTOR.
NIM TOOK THAT FROM ME. MY IDENTITY. AND EVERY TIME I LOOKED IN MY DAUGHTER'S EYES, I WAS REMINDED OF MY FAILURE.
NIM PUTS HER IDENTITY IN THE PEOPLE WHO FOLLOW HER. SHE KNOWS SHE IS NOTHING ON HER OWN. AND NOW I HAVE SOMETHING, FINALLY, TO BRING DESTRUCTION TO THE VERY PEOPLE WHO WORSHIP HER.
?
WHAT'S THIS?
I WISH I KNEW. EVER SINCE WE POWERED THIS BEACON, IT SEEMS TO CALL TO THEM. AT FIRST IT WAS JUST ONE OR TWO....
...BUT NOW THERE'S MORE.

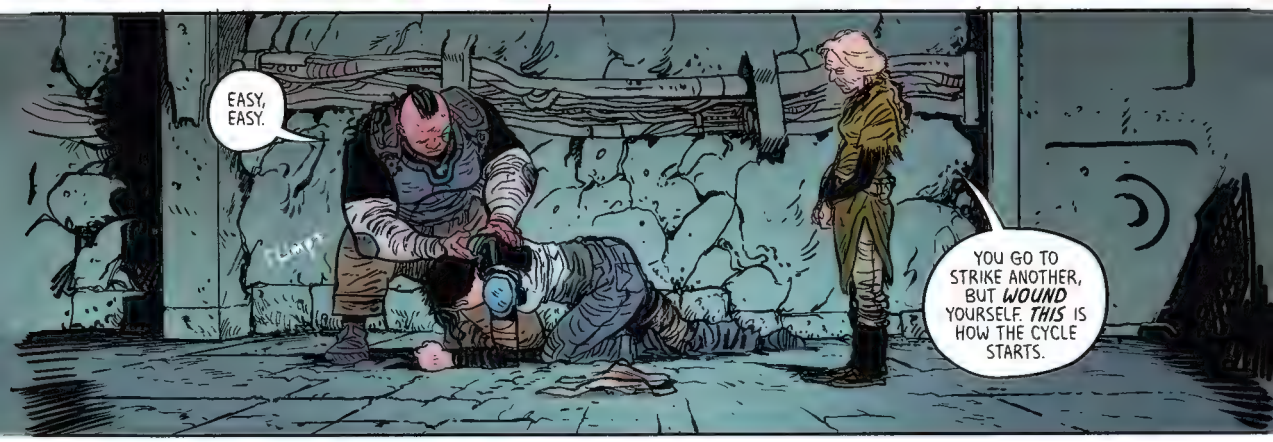

THEA... MY DEAR...
WAKE...
THERE YOU ARE. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU. YOU WERE BADLY INJURED.
MOTHER... MOTHER *DIEDRE?* IS THAT YOU?
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, THEA OF ROTO. CAN YOU WALK?
I... YES.
GOOD. I WANT TO SHOW YOU MY HOME.

MOTHER--
CALM YOURSELF, MESHIBA. I'M ALRIGHT.
THEA, THIS IS MESH--


FILTHY *PAZNINA!*
spit!

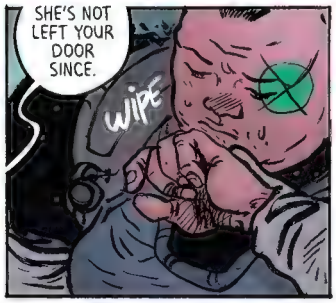
GET AWAY FROM ME!

AGHH!

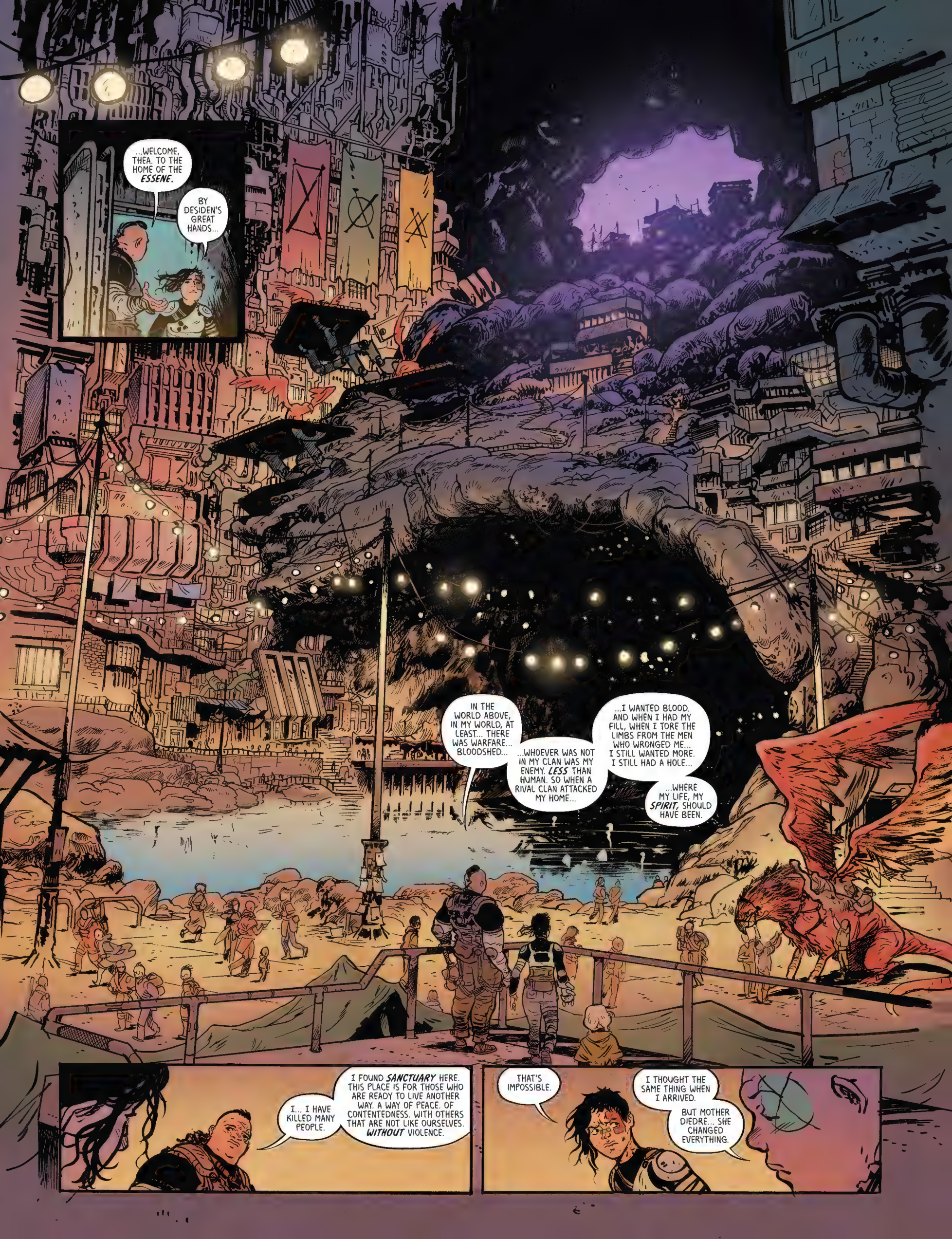

EASY, EASY.
YOU GO TO STRIKE ANOTHER, BUT *WOUND* YOURSELF. *THIS* IS HOW THE CYCLE STARTS.

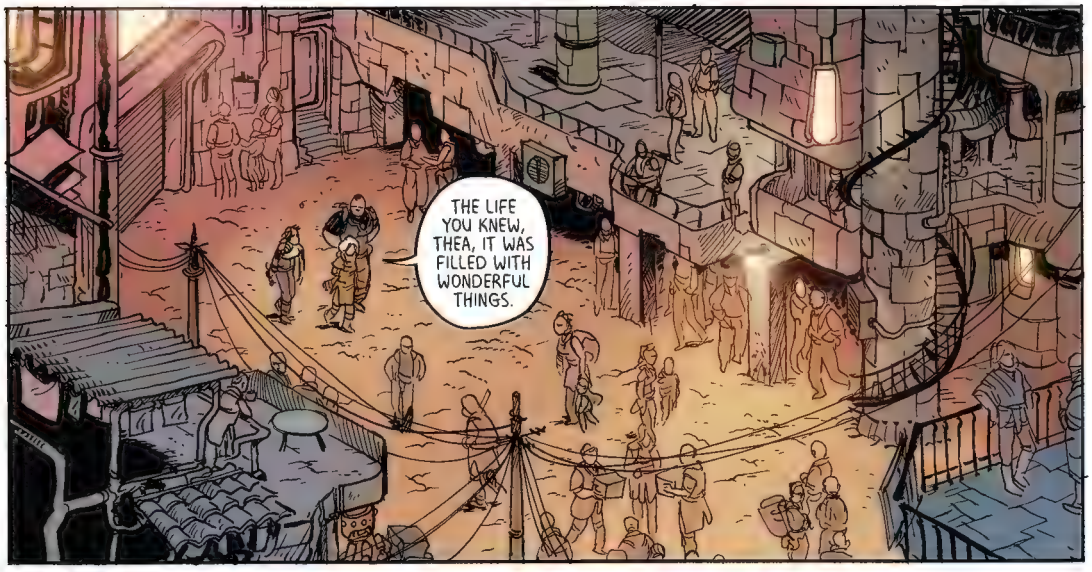
YOU WILL NOT HARM *ANYONE* WHILE YOU ARE HERE. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
...YES.

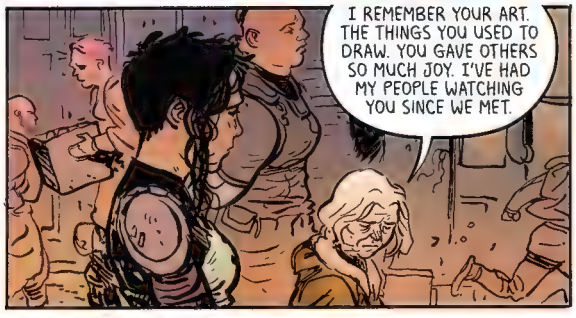
GOOD. MESHI BROUGHT YOU IN FROM THE ANCIENT DARK TWO DAYS AGO.


SHE'S NOT LEFT YOUR DOOR SINCE.
WIPE

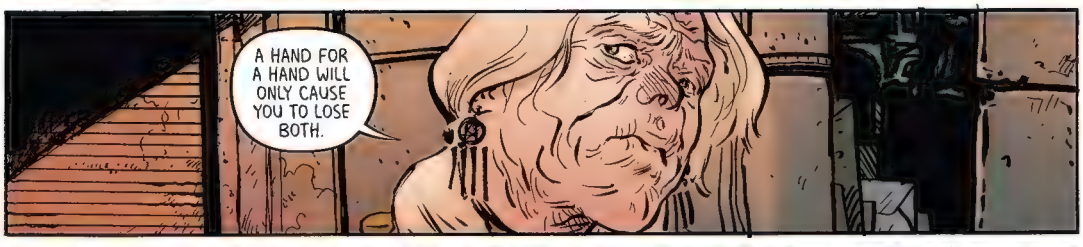
MOTHER... MAY I...?
OF COURSE. SHOW HER AROUND.


...WELCOME, THEA. TO THE HOME OF THE *ESSENE*.
BY DESIDEN'S GREAT HANDS...
IN THE WORLD ABOVE, IN MY WORLD, AT LEAST... THERE WAS WARFARE... BLOODSHED...
...WHOEVER WAS NOT IN MY CLAN WAS MY ENEMY. *LESS* THAN HUMAN. SO WHEN A RIVAL CLAN ATTACKED MY HOME...
...I WANTED BLOOD. AND WHEN I HAD MY FILL, WHEN I TORE THE LIMBS FROM THE MEN WHO WRONGED ME... I STILL WANTED MORE. I STILL HAD A HOLE...
...WHERE MY LIFE, MY *SPIRIT,* SHOULD HAVE BEEN.
I... I HAVE KILLED MANY PEOPLE.
I FOUND *SANCTUARY* HERE. THIS PLACE IS FOR THOSE WHO ARE READY TO LIVE ANOTHER WAY. A WAY OF PEACE. OF CONTENTEDNESS. WITH OTHERS THAT ARE NOT LIKE OURSELVES. *WITHOUT* VIOLENCE.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING WHEN I ARRIVED.
BUT MOTHER DIEDRE... SHE CHANGED EVERYTHING.

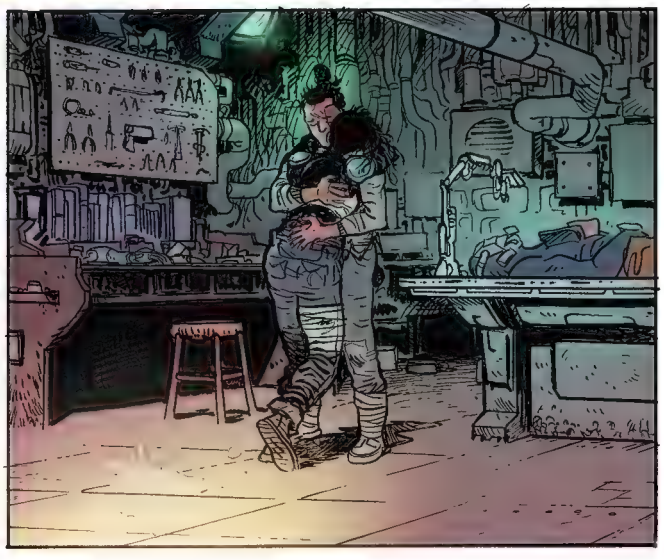

THE LIFE YOU KNEW, THEA, IT WAS FILLED WITH WONDERFUL THINGS.

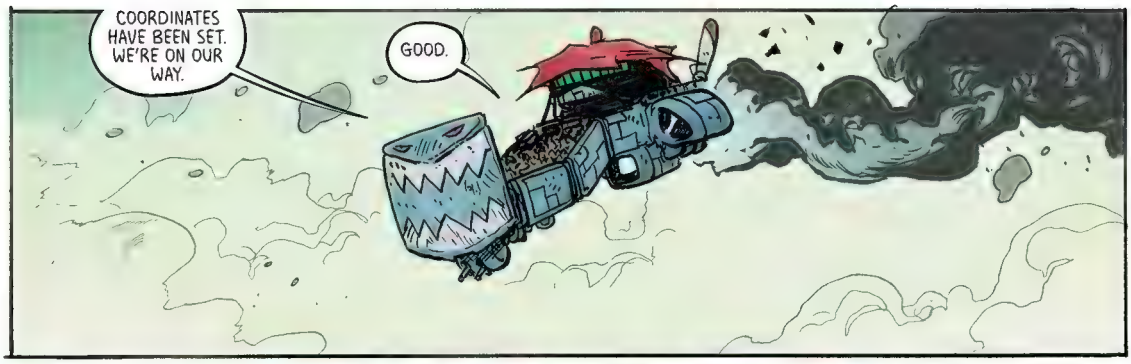

I REMEMBER YOUR ART. THE THINGS YOU USED TO DRAW. YOU GAVE OTHERS SO MUCH JOY. I'VE HAD MY PEOPLE WATCHING YOU SINCE WE MET.

I KNOW TERRIBLE THINGS HAPPEN. UNSPEAKABLE THINGS. AND THERE IS NO ANSWER FOR THEM. ALL I KNOW FOR CERTAIN IS WHAT I HAVE SEEN.


A HAND FOR A HAND WILL ONLY CAUSE YOU TO LOSE BOTH.

THEA?
ROLLO!

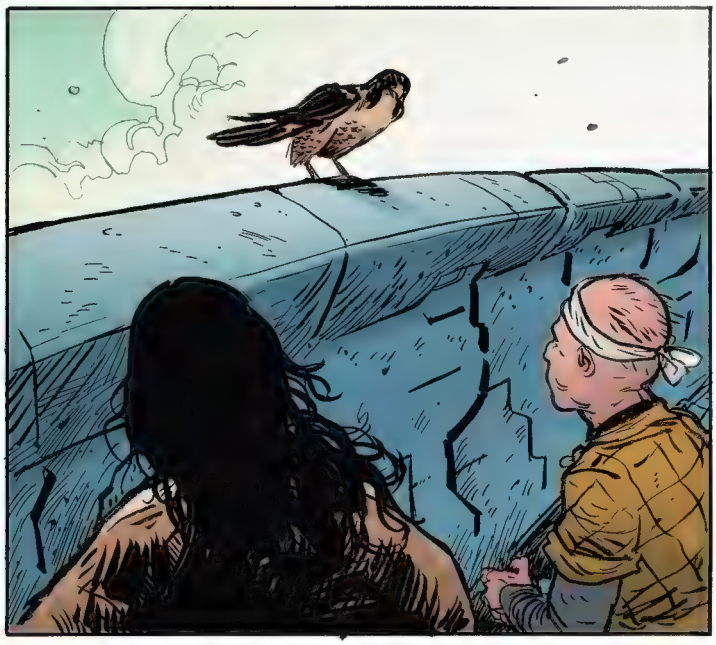


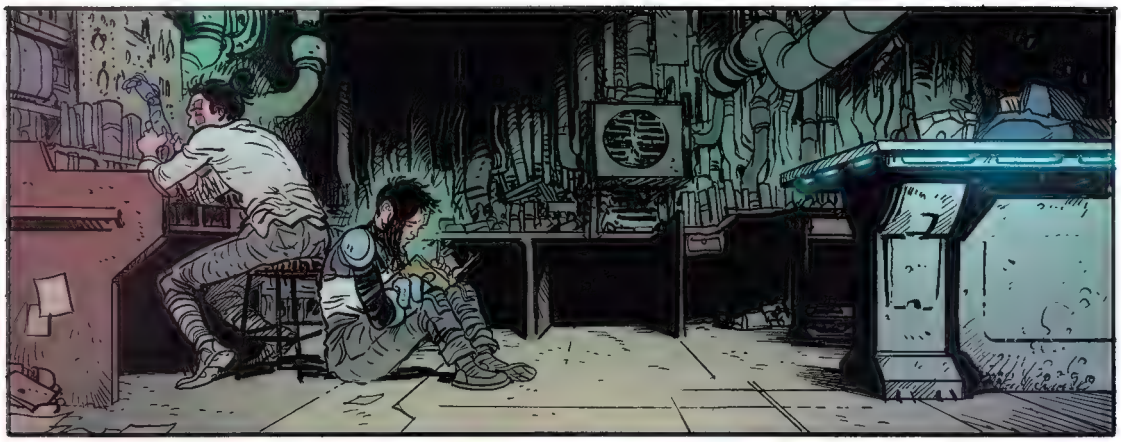

COORDINATES HAVE BEEN SET. WE'RE ON OUR WAY.
GOOD.

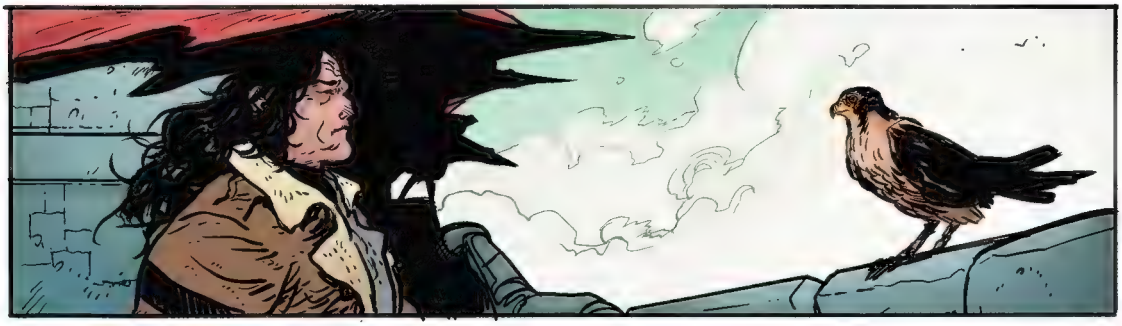
WITH THE DAMAGE TO THE SHIP, NIM MIGHT CATCH UP TO US.
THAT'S WHAT I WANT.

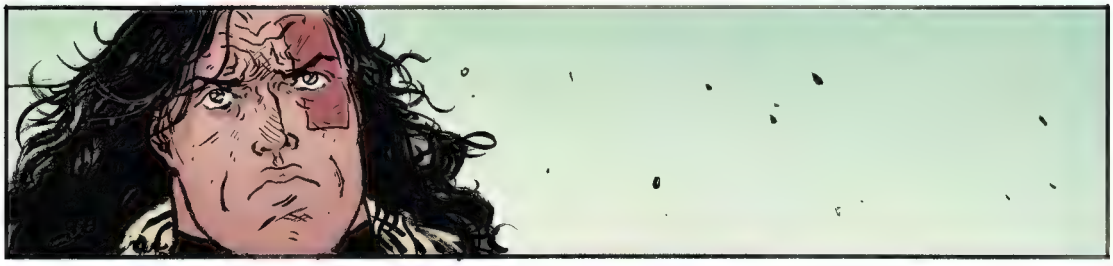
HOBBIE--!

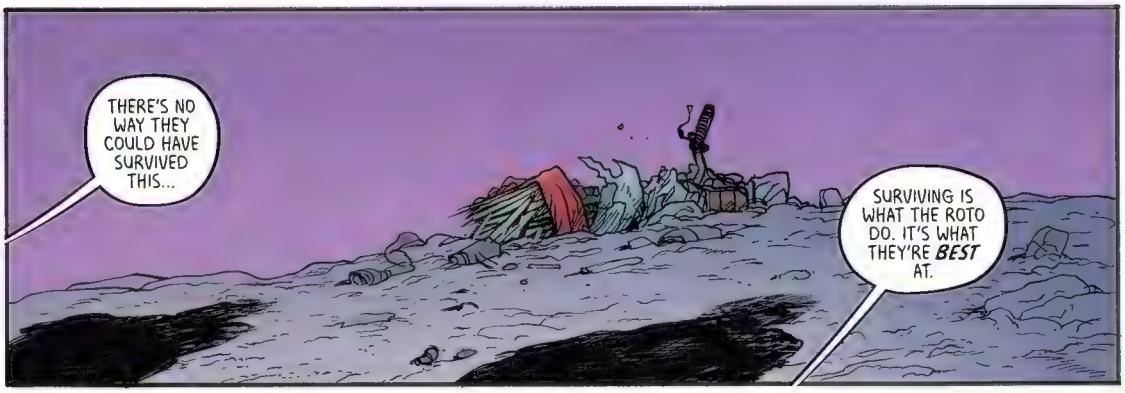
WHAT?

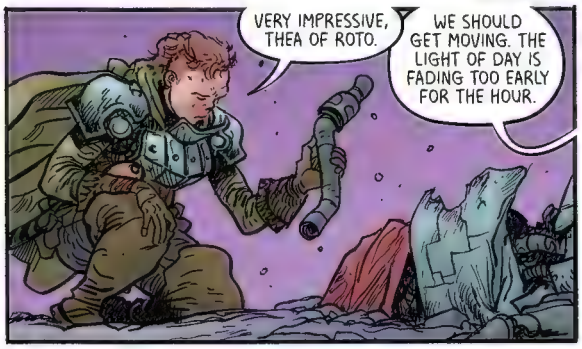









THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD HAVE SURVIVED THIS...
SURVIVING IS WHAT THE ROTO DO. IT'S WHAT THEY'RE BEST AT.

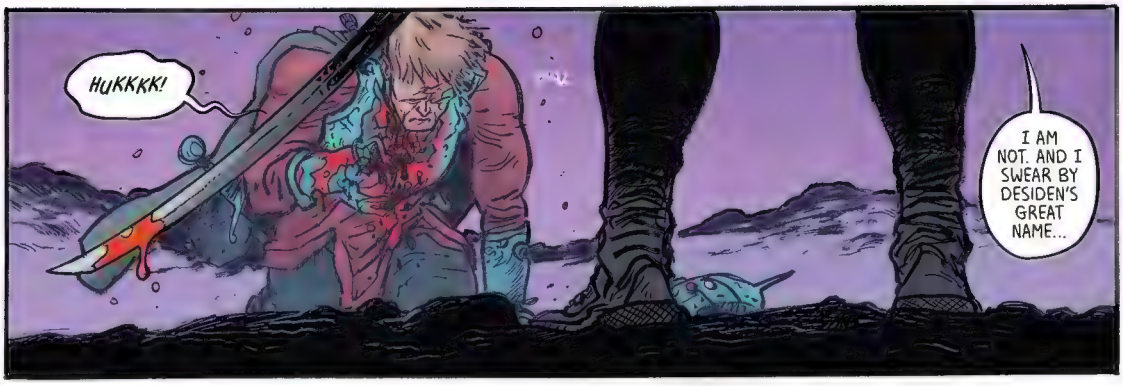

VERY IMPRESSIVE, THEA OF ROTO.
WE SHOULD GET MOVING. THE LIGHT OF DAY IS FADING TOO EARLY FOR THE HOUR.

THERE'S A REASON THEY CALL IT THE ANCIENT DARK.
EVIL THINGS LURK HERE, MUTATED BY THE WEAPONS OF THE OLD WORLD.

ENOUGH.

THE TRACKS LEAD EASTWARD.
PRINCESS, IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER...
I'D SAY YOU WERE SCARED.

YOU THINK I AM WEAK.
SPLK


HUKKKK!
I AM NOT. AND I SWEAR BY DESIDEN'S GREAT NAME...

I WILL MAKE MY MOTHER *PROUD.*

Hey, Extremists! (I wish there was a name for you all with slightly less sinister overtones, but I'm working with the hand I've been dealt.)

Good one, Sean!

Welcome to the Ancient Dark, where you've just met a few folks who will greatly impact Thea and Rollo's journey... just as Annora arrives to seek retribution. As this issue hits, Dan and I (and lots of other Skybound folk) are at New York Comic Con. If you're in town, please stop by the booth or artist alley to say hi.

Welcome indeed! As I was writing these issues, I got really excited to be able to get into the gritty visual details of what lies beneath all the Rising Plains. Needless to say, I had a blast drawing this stuff, and I hope you have a blast looking at it.

I'm very much looking forward to NYCC, come stop by my table and say hello! Also, Skybound is printing exclusive blank EXTREMITY variants for the show, so if you bring one by, I'll do a quick sketch on it for you!

Extremity Team,

I am absolutely amazed at the production of this series. The questions of morality and development of Jerome, Thea, and Rollo have truly been an immersive emotional experience. In issue #5 the panels showing Jerome and Thea torturing in comparison with Jerome admiring her art broke my heart in the perfect way. Daniel's ability to break down these characters to their core is absolutely astonishing. I hope the question of how far will Jerome push Thea down this path before she snaps is answered, as it is very clear that the killing of Jessica is out of the comfort of Thea's morals in this conflict. The raw emotion is so clearly perceived in many of these scenes, the loss of Shiloh's battery is a prime example and was beautifully done.

Throughout issue #5 you slightly expand on how the Roto are not completely innocent in their conflict with the Paznina. I truly hope a larger spotlight is shown on these doubts with future interactions of the members of these two opposing clans.

Well, you can glean some of that history from Nim and Annora's discussion this issue, but that's probably not the last time it will be broached.

I cannot stress enough at my amazement with this series. Please everyone on this team continue their amazing work as it clear how well it all works together.

Sincerely,
Michael

Dan hears praise like this and remains humble. I... don't know how he does it.

Thanks for your kind and thoughtful words, Michael. One thing that you mentioned that I wanted to highlight was the panel by panel torture scene with Thea and Jerome. Sometimes when crafting stories, specific moments have to be cut in order to serve the larger narrative, so I was very thankful that I was able to keep this in.

Dear Extremity crew,

Holy crap, issue 5 was dark. I appreciate the afterword Daniel, but wow, this story is hitting it hard and i love it! i have to admit, the teeth pulling that Thea's father does is brutal, he's going to need another mask don't you think?

That's... a really good point. There was a TV show last year, *Channel Zero: Candle Cove*, that featured a creature made entirely out of teeth. Yes, it's as freaky as you expect.

Another mask??? Never! Just MORE teeth! But, in all seriousness, as I was concepting out that mask, it took on many forms, including a crown of teeth, a bandanna that had teeth hanging from the tails... it got pretty crazy.

Anyway, Thea's path is starting to worry me. Just seeing how bright and happy she was before she lost her hand is heartbreaking and to see that fading and seeing her fall further and further is agonizing...

Still loving the story and i still think its amazing the work you do, story and art! i know i might have said it a few times before but i want to make sure you remember it!

Also Sean, I'm still sticking with the title Extremist, its only fitting for this comic!

Just another (Proud) Extremist,
Andi Tiscareno
El Paso, Texas

As you can see, I've since adopted it and am coming to grips with it.

Thanks for writing in, Andi! And as for Thea, she's not down and out just yet. Keep reading!

Extremity team

I always say I'm going to write a letter and I never do I guess I'm chicken. But after issue #5 I told myself I have write in. Love what you guys are doing with this comic it's f-ing awesome. For a second I almost thought Jerome changed and would spare Jessica's life but nope takes no prisoners. I always go back to what you said Daniel in #1 about the fear of losing your hand. Earlier in March I fractured my shoulder real bad needing three screws inserted. The first 6 weeks were the hardest I felt like I lost my entire arm had no function no mobility. It's been a tough recovery and process but I'm almost back to work. I just want to wish you guys continued success on this comic it's been awesome so far.

If my letter made it shout out to my buddy Jon! Made the letter section dude.

Alex Del Solar
North Hollywood CA

Alex, hope you're healing up well in the time since you wrote this. Hope buddy Jon is lending you all his comics to read (after he reads them, of course).

Alex, here's hoping your arm/shoulder is feeling better and you're back up to full strength! I'm so glad this comic was a small part of your recovery. Take care.

Really enjoying Thea's adventure thus far. I just got a copy of issues 1-4 & finished #1 & it was a bloody enjoyable one, mate! Guess I'll continue into the night, eye bags packed for the morn (mourn, in this case?) And see what's next in issue 2. Excellent pace & glad I chanced it, though I trust Skybound impeccably via Invincible & Birthright.

Philly

Thank you for your trust in us! I think all our series complement each other really well, in that if you read one, you'll probably dig most of what we publish. If you're looking to try something new, I'd suggest picking up the GREEN VALLEY hardcover coming out later this month, collecting the entire miniseries. Fun writing full of twists and turns, gorgeous art... what more can you ask? Knights taking on a time traveler? Sure!

Hey, Philly, thanks for giving EXTREMITY a try! I can personally vouch for GREEN VALLEY. My favorite part is the interplay between the characters. It's smartly written and surprisingly moving. Get on it!

See you in November, as Thea encounters a gnarly beast of the Ancient Dark, and so much more.

And Thea rides a GRIFFIN. Can I say that? It's on the cover to issue #8, I think I'm good. See you in 30 days!

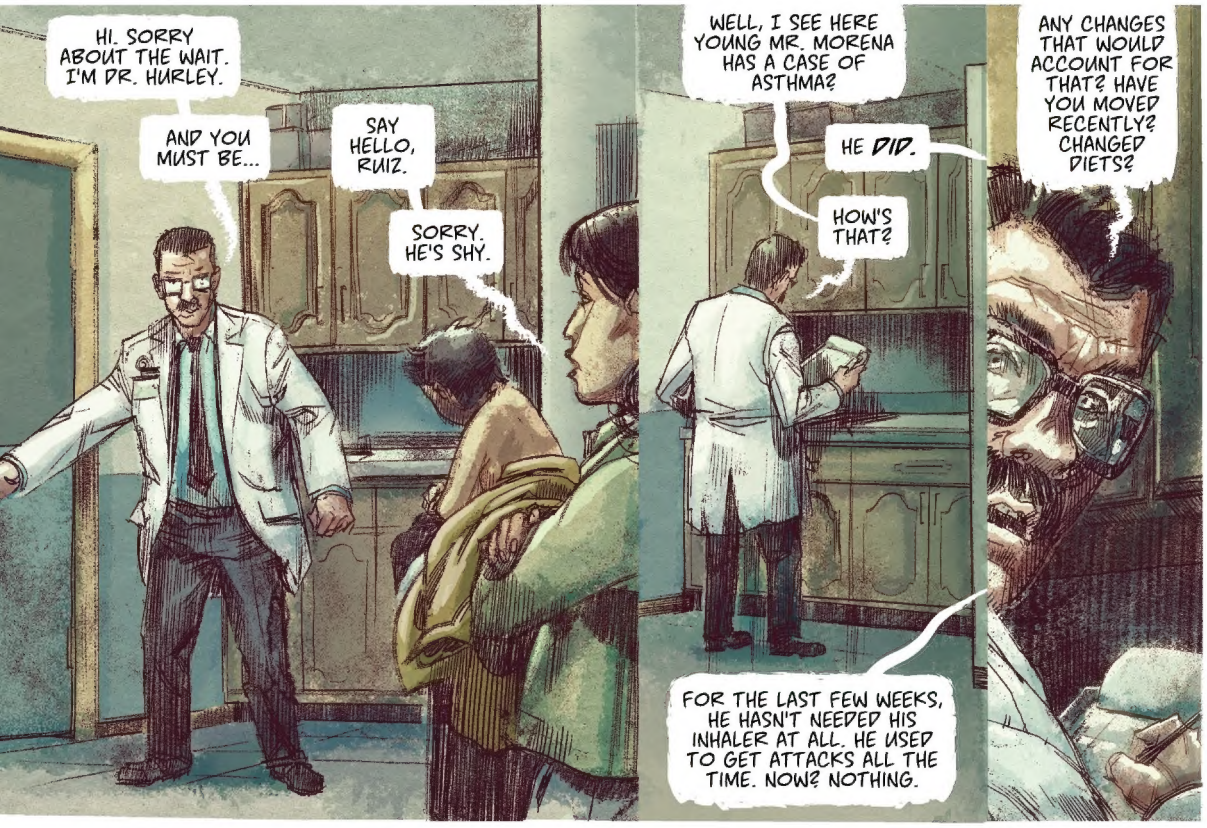
-Daniel Warren Johnson
@danielwarrenart

Before you go, I'm proud to share with you a preview of our latest comic, EVOLUTION. Around the world, humanity is undergoing rapid and unpredictable changes, and only three individuals seem to notice that their world is being reborn. A terrific team of Skybound writers (James Asmus, Joseph Keatinge, Christopher Sebela and Josh Williamson) wrote this one writers room-style, and it's a crazy global horror story drawn by Joe Infurnari and Jordan Boyd. It hits stores 11/15, so please pre-order with your local retailer ASAP to make sure you get your copy!

-Sean Mackiewicz
@seanmackiewicz

NOW.
PHILADELPHIA,
PENNSYLVANIA.
DR. LEE, MEET DR. SETIA IN THE PHARMACY.
STAT.
SHIT.

Pharma
TOK TOK TOK
TOK TOK TOK
TOK TOK TOK
TOK TOK TOK
TOK TOK--
HEY, ABE. HOLD UP, WHAT ARE YOU--
DR. HURLEY TO EXAMINATION ROOM B, PLEASE.
I'D LOVE TO TALK, DR. SETIA, BUT I'VE GOT A PATIENT WAITING.
CATCH ME LATER?


HI. SORRY ABOUT THE WAIT. I'M DR. HURLEY.
AND YOU MUST BE...
SAY HELLO, RUIZ.
SORRY. HE'S SHY.
WELL, I SEE HERE YOUNG MR. MORENA HAS A CASE OF ASTHMA?
HE DID.
HOW'S THAT?
ANY CHANGES THAT WOULD ACCOUNT FOR THAT? HAVE YOU MOVED RECENTLY? CHANGED DIETS?
FOR THE LAST FEW WEEKS, HE HASN'T NEEDED HIS INHALER AT ALL. HE USED TO GET ATTACKS ALL THE TIME. NOW? NOTHING.

NO. EVERYTHING ELSE IS EXACTLY THE SAME.
EXCEPT FOR RUIZ.

ANY CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR?
YES. NO. I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE. SOMETIMES HE SEEMS NORMAL. BUT SOMETIMES I LOOK AT HIM AND HE'S A MILLION MILES AWAY. IT'S LIKE HE'S A DIFFERENT CHILD.
THAT SOUNDS STRANGE, I'M SURE.
NOT EVEN CLOSE, MRS. MORENA. I'M A FATHER MYSELF. TOTALLY NORMAL TO BE WORRIED.
NOW LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN SEE.

EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE...
HM.
WHAT IS IT? OH, GOD--
IT'S FINE, MRS. MORENA. JUST SOME SCRATCHES.
ARE YOU SURE? HOW BAD IS IT?
BEEN DOING THIS A LONG TIME NOW. I'VE SEEN SOME BAD THINGS.
THIS?
THIS IS NOTH--
HOLY SHIT!
DOCTOR!

Asmus . Boyd . Infurnari . Keatinge . Sebela . Williamson

EVOLUTION

Horror. Evolved.
November 2017

SKYBOUND

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image

MEPHISTO